

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to for the reasons set forth in the Official Action.

In response, Claims 1 and 7 through 11 have been amended to avoid the recitation underlying the rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no amendments to the drawings are necessary, and that the objection has been overcome.

Claims Status

Claims 1 and 3 through 13 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 7 through 11 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 10, and 11 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 1, 10, and 11 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 1 and 3 through 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicants regard as the invention.

In response, Claims 1, 10, and 11 have also been amended to overcome the grounds of the rejection. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been overcome.

Dependent Claims

Claims 3 through 9, 12, and 13 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

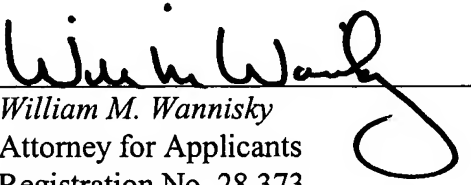
It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment could not have been presented earlier in the prosecution, inasmuch as it was earnestly believed that the claims heretofore on file were in condition for allowance. No new claims have been presented. It is believed that the Examiner's familiarity with the present application will allow full consideration hereof without the expenditure of undue time and effort.

Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,


William M. Wannisky
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,373

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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